

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS YEREVAN 000656

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

DEPT FOR EUR/CACEN-ESIDEREAS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [AM](#)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT SACKS PROCURATOR GENERAL; APPOINTS  
LONG-TIME ALLY

[1](#)1. (U) Sensitive but unclassified, protect accordingly.

-----  
SUMMARY  
-----

[1](#)2. (U) On March 17 Kocharian unexpectedly sacked Procurator General Tamazian, replacing him with his most influential deputy, Aghvan Hovsepian. A strong supporter of Kocharian, Hovsepian already held this post from 1998-99. The President's decree gave no reasons for the move. End Summary.

-----  
TAMAZIAN OUT, HOVSEPIAN IN  
-----

[1](#)3. (SBU) Kocharian unexpectedly sacked Armenia's Procurator-General Aram Tamazian and replaced him with his most influential deputy Aghvan Hovsepian March 17. A staunch Kocharian loyalist, Hovsepian previously held the post from 1998-99. (Note: He resigned in the wake of the October 27, 1999 attack on the Armenian parliament. End Note.) Hovsepian had since worked as a deputy Procurator General, however, and many local observers regarded him as even more influential than Tamazian.

[1](#)4. (SBU) One of the country's most powerful law-enforcement officials, Hovsepian has extensive business interests, reportedly controlling a dairy firm and a TV channel. He has also built a political support base among prominent natives from his home district of Aparan, a number of whom were elected to parliament last year. (Note: The ARF Dashnaktsutyun, one of the three parties represented in the government, criticized Hovsepian's covert engagement in politics last year. End Note.)

-----  
BIO NOTES  
-----

[1](#)5. (U) Aghvan Hovsepian, 50, graduated from Yerevan State University law school in 1974. He worked as investigator in the Karelian Autonomous Republic of Russia until 1978, then moved to Nagorno-Karabakh as head of the Investigation Department of the local Procurator's office. In 1986, Hovsepian was transferred to the Regional Procurator's office in Artik district (rayon) of Armenia as investigator. In 1989 Hovsepian was appointed investigator for special cases at the Armenian Procurator General's office. In 1991 he was elected to the Armenian parliament where he served until 1995; even during his parliamentary term, however, Hovsepian continued to work at the Procurator General's office, eventually becoming chief of the criminal investigations department in April [1](#)998. From 1998-99 Hovsepian served as Procurator General, and from 1999 until March 17 he was deputy Procurator General. Hovsepian is married, with three children.  
Walker